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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/829,385	04/22/2004	Tatsumi Yamanaka	046124-5292	5412
55694	7590	03/09/2006	EXAMINER	
DRINKER BIDDLE & REATH (DC) 1500 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 1100 WASHINGTON, DC 20005-1209			CRANE, SARA W	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2811	

DATE MAILED: 03/09/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.		Applicant(s)	
	10/829,385		YAMANAKA, TATSUMI	
	Examiner		Art Unit	
	Sara W. Crane		2811	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 January 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 and 7-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 5 and 6 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>26 January 2006</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-4 and 7-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kajiwara Nobuyuki et al. (JP 03-148869) in view of Okamoto Koji et al. (JP 2003-86827).

With respect to claim 1, as noted by the Japanese examiner, Kajiwara Nobuyuki et al. teaches in for example figure 6 an array of pn junction type photodiodes, where the pn junction is between n-type regions 21 and the p-type substrate. The backside illumination is shown in figure 6 (B). Alternatively, backside illumination would have been obvious as taught in the second reference (solution section of abstract) in order to provide a volume of material for light absorption. Regions separate from the photodiodes are shown as 31, formed between the photodiodes on the side opposite from the incident illumination. These regions are analogous to regions 13 in figure 2(C), which are specifically taught in figure 2 as n+ regions in a p type substrate. It would have been obvious to make regions 31 in figure 6 as n+, in order to provide for the collection of unwanted current taught as desirable in the abstract and figures. With respect to claim 2, regions 31 in the first reference surround the photodiodes. With respect to claims 3-4, the second reference teaches to include channel stopper layers to

surround each photodiode of an array. It would have been obvious to include such channel stoppers surrounding the photodiodes of the first reference, to aid in reducing cross-talk as taught by the second reference. (The channel stoppers are of the same dopant type as the substrate, but more highly doped.) With respect to claims 7-8, regions 31 and 21 of figure 6 of the first reference are doped opposite from the substrate, as noted above. With respect to claim 9, an array of electrode would have been obvious to provide contact to the array of pads as shown in the reference figures, to provide the voltage necessary for device operation. Bump-shaped electrodes would have been obvious, because this shape is well-known to provide contact at the top of the bump. A support member would have been obvious in order to provide mechanical support and/or packaging for the device. With respect to claim 10, including a scintillator in the optical path would have been obvious to increase the light available for the photodetector.

Claims 5-6 would be allowable if expressed in completed form, including all of the limitations of the independent claim, and intervening dependent claims. As noted by the Japanese examiner, the prior art does not motivate the grounding connections set forth in these claims.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to S. Crane, whose telephone number is (571) 272-1652.

Art Unit: 2811

The supervisor for Art Unit 2811, Eddie Lee can be reached on (571) 272-1732. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Sara W. Crane
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2811